AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 15-31 and 45-58 without prejudice.

No claims have been amended.

Claims 1-14 and 32-44 are pending and are listed following:

1. (original) A data communication system configured to communicatively link a host device and a client device with a point-to-point data communication link, the host device and the client device each configured for multipoint data communication over a distributed network, the data communication system comprising:

a data communication interface driver configured to communicatively link with a data communication interface of the host device via the point-to-point data communication link;

a virtual driver component configured to communicate with the data communication interface driver and the client device; and

a virtual network configured to communicatively link the data communication interface driver and the virtual driver component.

2. **(original)** A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication interface driver is a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate with the Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication link.

3. **(original)** A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication interface driver is a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate Remote NDIS messages with the Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication link.

4. **(original)** A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the virtual network is a local area network.

5. **(original)** A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication interface driver is a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver configured to communicate with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

6. **(original)** A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication interface driver is a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver configured to communicate Remote NDIS messages with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

7. **(original)** A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication interface driver is a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate with the Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication link, and the Remote NDIS driver is configured to communicate with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

8. **(original)** A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication interface driver is a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate Remote NDIS messages with the Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication link, and the Remote NDIS driver is configured to communicate the Remote NDIS messages with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

9. **(original)** A data communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a connection interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

10. **(original)** A data communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a Universal Serial Bus data communication interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

11. (original) A data communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a 1394 bus data communication interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

12. (original) A data communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a wireless data communication interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

13. (original) A data communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a Bluetooth data communication interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

14. (original) A data communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising an infrared data communication interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

15-31. (canceled)

32. (original) A method for implementing a point-to-point data communication link between computing devices, the method comprising:

providing a network communication component designed for data communication over a distributed network;

providing a connection interface to couple the network communication component with a host computing device; and

providing a virtual network to communicatively link the network communication component and a virtual driver component of a client computing device.

33. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the network communication component includes providing a data communication interface driver to communicatively link with a data communication interface of the host computing device via the point-to-point data communication link.

34. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the network communication component includes providing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver to communicatively link with a Remote NDIS component of the host computing device via the point-to-point data communication link.

35. **(original)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the network communication component includes providing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver to communicate Remote NDIS messages with a Remote NDIS component of the host computing device via the point-to-point data communication link.

36. **(original)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the connection interface includes providing a point-to-point data communication protocol interface.

37. **(original)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the connection interface includes providing a Universal Serial Bus data communication interface.

38. **(original)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the connection interface includes providing a 1394 bus data communication interface.

39. **(original)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the connection interface includes providing a wireless data communication interface.

40. **(original)** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the connection interface includes providing a Bluetooth data communication interface.

41. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the connection interface includes providing an infrared data communication interface.

42. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the virtual network includes providing a virtual local area network.

43. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the network communication component includes providing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver, and wherein providing the virtual network includes providing a virtual local area network to communicate Remote NDIS messages between the Remote NDIS driver and the virtual driver component.

44. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the network communication component includes providing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver to communicate Remote NDIS messages with a Remote NDIS component of the host computing device via the point-to-point data communication link, and wherein providing the virtual network includes providing a virtual local area network to communicate the Remote NDIS messages between the Remote NDIS driver and the virtual driver component.

45-58. (canceled)